

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A 1. An image storage method comprising:
the image storage step of continuously storing a plurality of image data in a first area of a single file; and
the reference information storage step of storing reference information to a source outside the file, which pertains to each of the plurality of image data stored in the image storage step, in a storage order of the plurality of image data in a second area of the file.

Sub B 2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the feature amount storage step of assuring a third area in the file, and storing feature amount data corresponding to the image data stored in the first area in the storage order of the plurality of image data.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the header information storage step of assuring a fourth area in the file, and storing header information including boundary position information between the first and second areas.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the image storage step includes the step of compressing and storing the plurality of image data.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the reference information specifies an image file name of an original of the image data stored in the first area.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the image storage step includes the step of storing one or a plurality of frame images extracted from moving image data in the first area, and

5 the reference information storage step includes the step of storing information that specifies moving image data corresponding to each frame image stored in the first area and a frame position thereof as the reference information in the second area.

7. An image storage apparatus comprising:

image storage means for continuously storing a plurality of image data in a first area of a single file; and

reference information storage means for storing 15 reference information to a source outside the file, which pertains to each of the plurality of image data stored by said image storage means, in a storage order of the plurality of image data in a second area of the file.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising feature amount storage means for assuring a third area in the file, and storing feature amount data corresponding to the image data stored in the first area in the storage order of the plurality of image data.

25 9. The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising header information storage means for assuring

a fourth area in the file, and storing header information including boundary position information between the first and second areas.

10. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said
5 image storage means compresses and stores the plurality of image data.

11. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the reference information specifies an image file name of an original of the image data stored in the first area.

10 12. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said image storage means stores one or a plurality of frame images extracted from moving image data in the first area, and

15 said reference information storage means stores information that specifies moving image data corresponding to each frame image stored in the first area and a frame position thereof as the reference information in the second area.

13 20 A storage medium for storing an image data file, the image data file comprising:

a first area which continuously stores a plurality of image data; and

25 a second area which stores reference information to a source outside the file, which pertains to each of the plurality of image data stored in the first area, in a storage order of the plurality of image data.

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14. The medium according to claim 13, wherein the image data file further comprises a third area which stores feature amount data corresponding to the image data stored in the first area in the storage order of 5 the plurality of image data.

15. The medium according to claim 13, wherein the image data file further comprises a fourth area which stores header information including boundary position information between the first and second areas.

10 16. The medium according to claim 13, wherein the image data file stored in the first area is compressed.

17. The medium according to claim 13, wherein the reference information specifies an image file name of an original of the image data stored in the first area.

15 18. The medium according to claim 13, wherein the first area stores one or a plurality of frame images extracted from moving image data, and
the second area stores information that specifies moving image data corresponding to each frame image
20 stored in the first area and a frame position thereof as the reference information.

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19. A storage medium for storing a control program for making a computer implement generation and storage of an image data file, said control program comprising:

a code of the image storage step of continuously storing a plurality of image data in a first area of a single file; and

a code of the reference information storage step
5 of storing reference information to a source outside the
file, which pertains to each of the plurality of image
data stored in the image storage step, in a storage
order of the plurality of image data in a second area of
the file.